



# ARMENIAN ASSEMBLY OF AMERICA

734 15<sup>TH</sup> STREET, N.W. • SUITE 500 • WASHINGTON, DC 20005 • 202.393.3434 • FAX 202.638.4904

July 17, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Azerbaijan's ongoing attacks on Christian Armenia that started on Sunday July 12 with the active support and encouragement of Turkey should signal the need for a dramatic shift in your Administration's policies in the region. The United States granting Azerbaijan over \$100 million more in defense aid than Armenia, and deferring to Turkey on matters ranging from recognition of the Armenian Genocide to its own blockade of Armenia and military support of Azerbaijan have clearly contributed to the Aliyev regime's emboldened breaches of the ceasefire and the taking of innocent civilian lives.

We hope you understand that Azerbaijan has recommenced shelling kindergartens and other purely civilian targets. This week Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry recklessly threatened to bomb Armenia's nuclear plant which is dedicated strictly to civilian energy use under international supervision.

In view of the important role of the United States as a Co-Chair of the Minsk Group negotiating a settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, and considering the special relationship between Armenia and the United States, but most of all as Americans, your Administration needs to call balls and strikes fairly and honestly. Any tilting toward the corrupt and warmongering Aliyev and Erdogan regimes is a recipe for more disaster. False equivalencies of treating the aggressors and victims the same have no place here.

The truth is that after the last major aggression by Azerbaijan in April 2016, the parties were to allow for more monitors as well as an investigative mechanism to mitigate future cease-fire violations. Regrettably, Azerbaijan blocked those reasonable measures, as it has blocked demining to protect civilians, and the necessary participation of the democratically elected government in the negotiations-- now we see the consequences.

Specifically, we ask that all U.S. military funding to Azerbaijan be cut immediately, with restored parity of aid already delivered to Armenia to at least balance the scales that have been tipped. We ask that you personally send a clear public message to Turkey that its support of anything except respect for the agreed cease-fire only signals that it is working to complete the Armenian Genocide committed during the Ottoman Empire. Further, as a final immediate request, we ask that your Administration enforce the substance of Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act and Section 620(I) of the Foreign Assistance Act, (commonly known as the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act) and revoke the executive waivers issued therein which have been routinely provided.

All people of good conscience have seen and are witnessing the results of backing down from dealing honestly with the issues involved. We have seen enough destruction of churches and Christian cemeteries and the elimination of Christians from the region.

The immediate steps we are requesting can only contribute to bringing peace in the region and represent fairness as well as American values.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Anthony Barsamian  
Co-Chair, Board of Trustees  
Armenian Assembly of America



Van Krikorian  
Co-Chair, Board of Trustees  
Armenian Assembly of America

cc: The Honorable Michael Pompeo, Secretary of State